

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting:	20 th September 2011
Report of:	Lorraine Butcher, Strategic Director, Children, Families & Adults
Subject/Title:	Summary of School's Performance 2010-11 & Quarter 1 Reporting 2011-12 for the Children and Families Directorate
Portfolio Holder :	Cllr Hilda Gaddum

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is twofold: to update the Children & Family Scrutiny Board with the year end performance report relating to school academic standards for the 2010/11 academic year as well as summarise Quarter 1 performance of Children and Families Directorate using the revised scorecard. The principle document referred to within this paper is the re-structured Children & Families Performance Scorecard for 2011-12 (Appendix A) which has been revised based upon national changes to performance reporting through the National Indicator set.
- 1.2 The revised scorecard and associated appendices has tried to integrate specific responses made by members of the Scrutiny committee relating to having a clearer understanding of the information provided. Appendix C provides a detailed explanation of the scorecard including any acronyms used. The scorecard again uses the 'Red Amber Green' RAG rating process.
- 1.3 The scorecard is open to further adaption during this year in light of a variety of factors which are outlined below. Performance reporting is always subject to change as additional information or priorities become available. The key factors which may need to be incorporated into the scorecard include:
 - a. The inclusion of specific performance measures which are identified as part of the action plan resulting from the recent Announced Inspection of our most vulnerable young people.
 - b. Further clarification at a national level relating to the expected returns on key performance measures.
 - c. Changes to the Ofsted frameworks relating to both the announced inspection process as well as the new school's Ofsted framework.
 - d. The findings from the Munro report and the expectations in terms of recording and reporting of social care records/cases.

2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 The Children and Families 2010-11 performance report be received and noted.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The reason for presenting this information is to provide an analysis of Children & Families performance against key school specific indicators for 2010-11 as well as provide quarterly updates on the most recent data for 2011-12

Wards Affected

- 4.1 All wards will be affected.

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 Not applicable

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

- 6.1 This quarterly reporting report provides an update on performance of the Directorate. The Directorate is working within an evolving national policy context in relation to children and young people, including the encouragement for schools to become autonomous of local authorities. The implication of this is that the Local Authority will have a reducing influence upon schools performance and achievement with responsibility and accountability increasingly residing at school level. Additionally the performance context of children's social care services is changing following publication of the Munro Report on Child Protection and the Government's response to it. Further information is awaited on this. Finally, the Education Bill is transferring responsibility for delivery of careers advice to schools. Future measurements and accountability of performance in relation to young people's participation in education, employment and training therefore will be reframed.

7.0 Financial Implications (Director of Finance and Business Services)

- 7.1 Performance data has been used to shape Children & Family service needs and identify/match resources to meet demand based appropriate levels of need.

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 8.1 None

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 The key risk relates to the accuracy of information to ensure that reporting is based upon validated data. Robust methods are in place to quality assure the accuracy of reported data at every level. Some data presented is provisional or projected data which is based upon returns from various sources, particularly schools. Such data helps to predict outcomes but comes with higher levels of uncertainty but remains useful to include for reporting trends.

- 9..2 The inclusion of comparative data provides the ability to benchmark Cheshire East performance but will always be historic. This therefore brings risk in terms of making accurate comparisons and should only be used as a guide.

10.0 Background and Options

10.1 The previous Children and Families scorecard included 82 indicators which were principally those national indicators which related to children and young people. The demise of this national data set has allowed for a full review of performance reporting and a streamlining of certain indicators. The revised scorecard as presented shows 30 indicators and are those indicators which are reported quarterly through CorVu (the Local Authority's corporate performance system). These have been agreed with senior managers within the Directorate. The decision to remove specific indicators has been based upon the following decisions:

- a. The requirement to focus our performance reporting on those indicators which will have the greatest impact of the outcomes for children & young people and which are priority areas within our service planning process.
- b. To remove indicators where there is no obvious evidence that the collection and reporting of data is providing a worthwhile analysis – e.g. the quotient used to report the effectiveness of CAMHS services.
- c. The removal of specific indicators where the numbers involved within a Cheshire East context is very small – e.g. the number of schools within an Ofsted category. Such indicators could be replaced if there was a growing trend or concern through the year.
- d. This report card should be a strategic analysis of performance – certain indicators were felt to be better reported through the service planning process which allows for a more operational interpretation – e.g. School meals update. C&F Senior Management Team receive a more detailed scorecard to consider each quarter.

10.2 The system used throughout last year, and will be repeated this year, has been that quarterly reporting has been presented to the Children & Families Senior Management Team for their approval and sign off. Remedial actions are agreed with service managers as required where performance issues/concerns have been raised. Exception reporting will be used throughout the year to address specific areas of concern. Quarter 1 performance was presented to senior management on the 31st August 2011.

10.3 Specifically for the safeguarding of children, the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has established its own performance reporting framework which provides both monthly as well as quarterly reporting processes. Monthly reporting is made available to the Principal Manager for Safeguarding with quarterly reporting to the Board. This performance report is owned by the Board and reflects the combined work of the partner agencies in effecting robust safeguarding arrangements in the Borough.

- 10.4 School performance 2010-11 - Appendix B shows a detailed summary of performance data currently available. This appendix breaks each phase of education down into key indicators and shows three year trends. Commentary has been provided to explain specific information. The availability of national or other comparative data is variable and we are awaiting in particular such data at Key Stage 4. It is important to state that most of the data as presented is **provisional data** and therefore subject to change.
- 10.5 In terms of the detailed analysis of our more vulnerable groups, the appendix shows the performance of Cared for Children and some early trends in terms of Free School Meal v Non Free School Meal performance. Much more detailed analysis will follow as validated data becomes available and this analysis will include SEN v Non SEN performance. A further detailed report will be presented to Scrutiny when the validated data is available.
- 10.6 Initial priorities for 2011-12 academic year : school performance
- a. To continue to narrow the gap in the performance of our more vulnerable young people at all phases based upon a detailed review of performance for 2010-11.
 - b. To establish a revised data sharing protocol with schools and academies which allows for the ongoing tracking of performance on a termly basis.
 - c. To establish revised arrangements for our Improving Outcomes Programme (IOP) which supports our most vulnerable schools.
 - d. To further refine and target intervention programmes to those which the need is greatest and which reduces the gap in performances of certain groups.
 - e. To commission, as required, high quality personnel to support the ongoing monitoring and challenge to schools underperforming or at risk of underperforming.
- 10.7 2011/12 Quarter 1 reporting for Children and Families Directorate: Appendix C provides a detailed explanation of the revised scorecard including the use of any acronyms used. This explanation is in response to issues raised at the previous Scrutiny meeting as to greater clarity of understanding of the information provided. The revised scorecard includes targets for 2011-12 for all indicators where it is felt appropriate. There are some indicators where there is no need for a target – e.g. the number of schools inspected by Ofsted. The performance of minority groups in schools does not have a target as the size of cohorts are so small and therefore highly variable that the inclusion of a target adds very little value.
- 10.8 Exception reporting : it was felt that it would be useful to report to scrutiny the progress of any key indicators which are currently high risk at this first quarter point. Key areas of risk currently identified are:

Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Appendix D provides a detailed summary relating to 16-18 year old NEET – Not in Education, Employment or Training. Performance in this area declined throughout 2010/11 and has continued to decline as of the end of Quarter 1. The report provided tries to capture the key issues, up to date comparisons with other Authorities and outline interventions in place to tackle the growing NEET population. The Local Authority commissions Cheshire and Warrington Connexions Ltd to provide advice and guidance to young people to assist them in making informed decisions concerning future education, employment and training opportunities. Increasingly the Local Authority is required to focus upon those vulnerable young people ‘at risk’ of becoming NEET with schools required to provide access to careers guidance.

- 10.9 **Percentage of core assessments carried out within 35 days** – The following points are presented which give key issues relating to the reasons why Quarter 1 is below the set target :
- a. The backlog of assessments showing on PARIS are impacting on reporting as they are skewing the presented figures in terms of the cohort being counted.
 - b. Further training needs to be undertaken in relation to ensuring that wrong entries are not made in PARIS which would automatically put core or Initial Assessments out of timescale.
 - c. A detailed exception report will be made available on this indicator for the next meeting to give a fuller analysis,
 - d. (Note ongoing difficulties with PARIS is resulting in the Local Authority actively pursuing a change to this system)
- 10.10 **Stability of Placement of Cared for Children** - The reduction in the performance relating to long term placement stability is currently under scrutiny within the service. It is important to understand the reasoning as to why long term placements disrupt in order to identify strategies which can address this. Reasons might include additional training needs of carers, planned ‘move ons’ for young people, carers change of circumstance or a restriction on a carers approval which might therefore necessitate a further move. The current cohort of children implicated within this indicator is currently being analysed and an action plan developed to address issues identified.
- 10.11 **Children who are unknown in terms of education provision** - Significant work has been undertaken to identify those young people where there is no record as to their educational provision. Some of these very vulnerable young people are extremely transient and may come into the Authority very quickly with limited records yet may also move on at a similar rate. Ongoing support is provided through the Educational Welfare service for such children.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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